

over whether these offices will be done away with if LB 392 is...whether the offices that have been discussed, the 23 offices slated for closure, will in fact be closed if LB 392 is enacted. I don't know how many of you have read the Governor's message, but it makes it very clear and I'd like to just read a couple sentences there that state that during the process we have attempted to communicate our position that this appropriation, if made, would not, and if you note, it is underlined, would not result in additional offices remaining open. And the final sentence of that paragraph states that with or without this appropriation, the 23 offices slated for closure in the revised plans will be closed. These offices will be closed. The Governor of the State of Nebraska has stated it and I assume it will be carried out pursuant to her directive by the Director of Social Services. It was the decision of the last Director of Social Services under a different administration to close these offices. I assume it makes good sense to close these offices or else they would not be doing it. So, if you're inclined to vote for this override because these offices...or give the people back in your district that these offices might remain open, I'm here to assure you, as the Governor has in her message, that the 23 offices will not remain open. Finally, I'd like to state that the preliminary budget figures which were brought to the floor of the Legislature by the Appropriations Committee again show that we're not going to have additional money. Most agencies will again be cut back this year and we'll have to make another difficult decision on whether to grant a state employees salary rate increase. The money is not going to be there and I can assure you that we are going to spend time, probably more time than anyone in this room would like to, on budget cutbacks. So try to view this bill in the big configuration of the entire budget. It deals with one agency but every single dollar counts...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...and more importantly, if we do not...if we override the veto of LB 392, it will be sending a message to most all state agencies in the state that were cut back by the special session that they do have an opportunity and a good opportunity to come back and receive that money that was cut during the last couple special sessions. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The gentleman from Stromsburg, Senator Moore. Senator Warner on deck.